

August 19, 2002

Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification

**California Conservation Corps
Bear River Watershed Restoration Project**

Humboldt County

On August 5, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Conservation Corps requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and California Code of Regulations Water Quality Certification for the Bear River Watershed Restoration Project in Humboldt County. The application covers disturbances to waters of the United States associated with improving salmonid habitat and increasing riparian cover on the Morrison Ranch.

The proposed project is a component of a larger watershed project funded by landowners, California Department of Fish and Game, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The project proposes to improve salmonid habitat by increasing riparian cover along a section of Bear River. Four willow-cottonwood live siltation baffles are proposed for a point bar of Bear River. From the upstream-most baffle to the downstream-most baffle, the length of each baffle will be 80 feet, 120 feet, 170 feet, and 210 feet respectively. An excavator will dig the trenches to a depth equal to the water table elevation or 6-8 feet deep. Vegetation will consist of dense rows of 10-12 foot long willow and cottonwood cuttings. The vegetation will be placed in the trenches, and heavy equipment will backfill the trenches with the excavated cobble. The baffles will encompass 1.7 acres. This will increase stream bank stability and improve salmonid habitat.

The California Department of Fish and Game has determined that this project qualifies for a Categorical Exception pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project is scheduled to begin September 1, 2002 and will last approximately two weeks. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3830-3869. Comments on this project should be submitted to Kirsten James at jamek@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.